7th May 1962]

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I want to make the following statement regarding the cyclone that passed through Coimbatore and Madurai on 3rd May 1962 :—

Coimbatore

On Thursday, the 3rd May 1962 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. there was heavy rain with hail stone accompanied by gale at 40 miles per hour. Due to strong wind, many trees on road-side were uprooted. One tree fell on an empty compartment at the railway station. Road traffic was affected for about two hours. There was partial failure of power supply in the town. Telephone lines were cut in parts of the town. Many stalls at the All-India Swadeshi Exhibition were particularly damaged and the loss is estimated at Rs. 2,000. The pandal erected for the Annual Conference of Hind Mazdoor Sabha collapsed. Betel vines in Kuniamuthur area were affected. But the loss is negligible. Power supply has since been restored and telephone lines have been repaired. There was no loss of life or injuries to the general public. The situation is normal.

Madurai

A gale struck Madurai district also on 3rd May 1962. Three or four stalls in Madurai Chitrai Exhibition were dislodged due to the gale. But they were immediately propped up again. Some trees were uprooted and some thatched temporary summer pandals put up before shops in Bazaar Street in Madurai town were dislodged. Only slight damage were caused to eight thatched huts in Usandagiripatti and Kathapatti hamlet at Narasingapatti, Melur taluk. The damage per hut is estimated at not more than Rs. 5. No loss of life or cattle or damage to property in any other taluks has been reported.

V.—ANNOUNCEMENT.

(1) THE MADRAS GENERAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that the Governor has given his recommendation for the introduction in the Legislative Assembly of the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962.

VI.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

" That leave be granted for the introduction of the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962 ".

The motion was put and carried and leave was granted.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill is introduced.